



**Nova Scotia
Advisory Council on
the Status of Women**

Fact Sheet on Violence Against Women

Revised Dec/07

“Violence is far less likely between equals...therefore, equality and respect of all people is a crucial concept...women have not yet achieved equality, and this must be redressed.”
Witness at the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993

- In 2004, 8 percent of women in Nova Scotia (or one woman in 12) reported that they had experienced violence at the hands of their current or former spouse/intimate partner within the previous five years. This percentage is unchanged from 1999.¹
- Young women in common law relationships are at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence as are women who have been in a relationship for three years or less, and women whose partner is a frequent, heavy drinker.¹
- Aboriginal women in Canada are at least three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women.¹
- One-third of all incidents of spousal violence in Canada (approximately 394,000 cases between 1999 and 2004) were witnessed by children.¹
- Nearly two-thirds of spousal violence incidents were not reported to the police.¹
- Female victims of spousal violence are more likely than males to report being injured, suffer lost productivity, experience multiple assaults, fear for their lives, and experience negative emotional consequences.
- In 2005, 840 sexual offences were reported to police in Nova Scotia. Sexual offences comprised 8% of all violent offences reported to police in the province.²
- According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), 88% of sexual assaults in Canada do not get reported to police.³
- 31,000 Nova Scotians indicated they were victims of sexual assault in 2004. In that year, Nova Scotia's rate of sexual assault was 40 per 1,000 population aged 15 and over.³
- In 2004, 85% of victims of all sexual offences reported to the Halifax Regional Police Service were female and 15% were male. In close to half of cases (49%), victims (female and male) were under the age of 18.²
- Between 1991 and 2006, there were 266 homicides in Nova Scotia. Of these, women and girls made up close to one-third (32%) of victims (ie., 84 females and 182 males). More than half of female victims were killed by their spouses or intimate partners, compared to fewer than one in ten male victims.⁴

- Women in Nova Scotia are about 40 times more likely to be killed by a spouse or intimate partner than they are to be killed by a stranger while men in Nova Scotia are more likely to be killed by a stranger than they are to be killed by a spouse or intimate partner.⁴
- According to the 2004 General Social Survey, 11% of Canadian women reported being a victim of criminal harassment (stalking) in the five-year period from 1999-2004. This represents more than 1.4 million females 15 years of age and older who, as a result of the stalking, feared for their life or that of someone known to them. Women in Nova Scotia have the 2nd highest rate in Canada at 12%.¹

*In Nova Scotia, 84 women were
victims of homicide between 1991 and 2006*

Female Victims of Homicide, Nova Scotia, 1991-2006

Year	Number	Year	Number
1991	6	1999	4
1992	12	2000	3
1993	7	2001	1
1994	6	2002	4
1995	5	2003	1
1996	4	2004	4
1997	10	2005	5
1998	8	2006	4

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Homicide Survey*.

For further information on violence and personal safety, see these Advisory Council publications:

- *Making Changes: A Book for Women in Abusive Relationships* at <http://women.gov.ns.ca/pubViolence.asp>
- *Sexual Assault in Nova Scotia: A Statistical Profile* http://women.gov.ns.ca/pubs2005_06/sexualassaultstatsDec05.pdf

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Sources:

- 1 Statistics Canada . Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Family Violence in Canada. A Statistical Profile 2005*, Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE.
- 2 Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, from *Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*.
- 3 Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004*, Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Juristat: Vol.25. No.7.
- 4 Statistics Canada. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Homicide Survey*.